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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 SANAA 002496

SIPDIS

FOR IIP/G/IR BARBARA CONATY AND NEA/PD JESSICA DAVIES

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TAGS: [SCUL](#) [YM](#) [KSEP](#) [OEXC](#)

SUBJECT: SANAA AMERICAN CORNER PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Post requests funding to establish American Corner partnerships with six public institutions in Yemen. Institutions include Dhamar University, Hodeidah University, Sana'a University, Aden University, Taiz University and the Sana'a Public Library. John Balian, PAO, is the designated point of contact for the program and will provide oversight in developing the partnership in conjunction with the APAO.

2. Post is targeting these six institutions as a means of promoting MPP goals by increasing knowledge of the English language, American society, culture, politics and economics and by expanding the reach of Embassy programs into rural Yemen. The overwhelming majority of Yemenis have little or no knowledge of American culture, history, politics, etc. although Yemenis that we meet as we travel around Yemen express a genuine interest in opportunities to learn more about the United States. Yemenis are hungry for knowledge and post is targeting areas in Yemen that do not normally receive development or educational aid. Institutions are listed in order of preference.

3. Dhamar University is located approximately two hours by car from the capital Sana'a and serves as the primary educational facility for about two dozen tribal areas. The University's president, who is a US alumnus, has been working to expand the size and outreach of the university so that it can affect the lives of youths living in this largely agricultural area. A new library/computer center has been built and is waiting to be fitted with computer equipment, furnishings and books. The President of the University is enthusiastic about using the currently empty space for an American Corner.

4. Dhamar University Budget:

25 Computer stations	\$50,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	40,000
Total	\$100,000

5. Sana'a Public Library is the only national public library in Yemen and it has been inadequately funded for many years. The library previously had one computer dating from around 1985 and Post recently donated five computers to help the library transfer its card catalogue to the computer. The library director will open up space in the library's main building for the American Corner collection so that it may serve as a useful reference for researchers and the general Yemeni population. Many researchers, students and members of the general public use the public library as a reference source as the university libraries, even in the capital city, are inadequate.

6. Sana'a Public Library Budget:

25 Computer stations	\$50,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	40,000
Total	\$100,000

7. Even though Hodeidah University is a relatively new institution, it has succeeded in serving the entire western region of Yemen and the American Corner project will provide a unique opportunity for their students, staff and faculty members. Previously, Post had not had a great deal of direct contact with the university due to its location far from the capital. However, since initial contact, post has been developing new ways to work in conjunction with this university. Post believes that this university will continue to provide an ideal outlet for reaching young people in this Red Sea region of Yemen. The staff at the university will work closely with post to coordinate and run the American Corner smoothly and successfully.

8. Hodeidah University Budget:

25 Computer stations	\$50,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	40,000
Total	\$100,000

9. Taiz University is located approximately four hours by car from the capital Sana'a and has a student body of around 35,000. The American Corner project at Taiz University will not only be made available to the university's large student body but also to various institutions working in Taiz conducting research and development work. This is the largest university in central Yemen.

10. Taiz University Budget

15 Computer stations	\$30,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	35,000
Total	\$75,000

11. Aden University reaches students in the south of Yemen and continues to rely largely on staff trained in the former Soviet Union. Western influence into the teaching staff, materials and curriculum of Aden University is relatively new. The university is anxious to provide additional information regarding American and the West to its staff and students.

12. Aden University Budget:

15 Computer stations	\$30,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	35,000
Total	\$75,000

13. Although Sana'a University is located in the capital of Sana'a it, like all Yemeni universities, has been inadequately funded and has not been able to keep up with modern technology and resources. Many individuals who graduate from the university with a major in English lack the language ability to communicate effectively and know little to nothing of American culture, history, politics, etc. as most universities teach British English literature and use resources previously donated by the British. There is little to no American influence. The university administration is enthusiastic about introducing American materials into university studies and making such information available to university students.

14. Sana'a University Budget:

15 Computer stations	\$30,000
Electronic Resources	10,000
Books	35,000
Total	\$75,000

15. Each of the institutions Post has selected as a partner in an American Corner project affords the means for Post to reach out to a younger audience, to provide knowledge and information to the remote rural areas of Yemen and to engage the widest audience possible. Computers and electronic resources comprise a large portion of each request. Post's MPP has focused on providing internet and computer resources to the rural areas of Yemen. This component of the American Corner project would complement a current post project of providing internet classrooms to secondary schools throughout Yemen.

HULL